

New Zealand: General Resources

Environment Guide

<http://www.environmentguide.org.nz/>

This site contains practical information to assist individuals, community groups and businesses to more effectively participate in environmental management processes.

Landcare Trust

<http://www.landcare.org.nz/>

Organisation providing resources and connecting community groups and government organisations to improve land management

Community Urban Restoration Education and Guide

<http://www.landcare.org.nz/files/file/1560/CURE%20Guide.pdf>

Contains tips with how to start a community group and solutions to issues faced in urban environments

Nature Space

<https://www.naturespace.org.nz/resource-centre>

Provides information and resources for restoration groups

Green Toolbox

<https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/resources/tools/green-toolbox>

A free Windows-based software package to help users choose and evaluate plants for a variety of land management applications, throughout New Zealand.

Weedbusters

<https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/>

Website with various resources on identifying and managing weeds in New Zealand.

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network

<http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/>

Pictures and description of flora in New Zealand

Predator Free New Zealand

<https://predatorfree.nz.org/>

Information about pest control, monitoring and support

CommunityNet Aotearoa

<https://community.net.nz/>

Legal resources, which are useful for community groups

Bay of Plenty Resources

Pest Management

<https://www.boprc.govt.nz/our-region-and-environment/pest-management/>

Regional Council pest management page.

Envirohub

<https://envirohub.org.nz/>

Helping local communities take action on environmental issues as well as volunteer management.

Care Group Help

<https://www.boprc.govt.nz/residents-and-communities/care-groups/>

Regional Council page on resources for community groups.

Wetland Restoration Guide

<https://www.boprc.govt.nz/media/29543/Guide-090618-WetlandRestorationGuide.pdf>

A step by step guide from planning to implementation produced by the Bay of Plenty Wetlands Forum.

Land Management Factsheets

<https://www.boprc.govt.nz/plans-policies-and-resources/fact-sheets/land-management-fact-sheets/>

Includes factsheets on native plants for revegetation projects ([12](#)), establishment practises for revegetation projects ([15](#)), care group handbook ([28](#)) and biodiversity in the Bay of Plenty ([31](#)). These factsheets provide information on how to revegetate an area and how to run care groups including management and funding.

Plant Me Instead

https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/site/assets/files/1085/plant_me_instead_bop.pdf

A guide for what plants people could grow in their gardens instead of ecological weed species.

Legal Framework

National and Local Policies regarding the urban environment

Public land, as in city parks and reserves, is covered by multiple acts, policies and plans. Along with the [Resource Management Act](#) some areas will also be covered by the [Conservation Act](#), [Reserves Act](#) and [Biosecurity Act](#). Urban spaces in Tauranga are covered by [Tauranga City](#) and [Bay of Plenty Region](#) ten year plans and annual plans, [Tauranga city plan](#), [reserves management plan](#), [vegetation management strategy](#), [toxic agrichemicals for vegetation management policy](#), [vegetation and tree management policy](#), [national pest plant accord](#), [regional pest management plan](#), [regional natural resources plan](#).

Under the Resource Management Act, both regional and district councils are required to make plans for the area. Councils produce both annual and ten year plans. Current ten year plans are for 2018-2028.

Related to the environment, the Tauranga City Council ten year plan has made a commitment to

- Developing an overarching Environment Strategy and action plans for the city
- Make improvements in stormwater quality management
- Understand and manage natural hazards and increase resilience (including the impacts of climate change)
- Supporting a range of community education programmes
- Supporting a range of community driven projects
- Providing infrastructure, services and policies that support healthy and active living for all ages and abilities.
- Increase collaboration and partnerships, including Tangata Whenua.
- Improve the level of engagement between Council and the community.
- Improving tools and resources to provide a better experience for our community.

Actions the Council want to take include:

- Ensuring traditional food and plant sources that require access to urban areas are identified and mapped
- Ensuring green networks linking the natural and the urban environment are identified
- Encouraging the use of plant species appropriate to the climatic and soil conditions and to the microclimate
- Use best practise design to incorporate trees and other vegetation into the urban environment
- Identify opportunities within the urban area to accommodate wildlife nodes and habitat to encourage their protection
- Ensure that amenity values are addressed in the development of public and private space

Excerpts from Ecological Restoration and the Law guide (Dawson, K. 2008)

Working with local authorities

Working in close association with local authorities usually contributes greatly to the success of a community conservation group. Therefore it is important to maintain a good relationship with the councils in your area. Local authorities can often provide groups with technical or scientific information, or advice, which can contribute significantly to the ability of a group to get work done.

Many council staff say that their relationship with a group is most successful when the person speaking to the council is co-operative and understanding of the financial and legal constraints placed on councils that mean they cannot always do exactly what groups want them to do all the time.

Considerations for groups working on publicly owned land

The public are allowed free access to publically owned land. However, this does not mean that groups or individuals can freely undertake restoration activities on public land (e.g. health and safety considerations). The Tangata Whenua of an area should also be consulted as the land may have cultural or historical significance.

It is important to understand the different status of the land you are working on as the different classifications have different implications for how the land can be managed. It is important for community groups to remember that councils are bound by policies therefore may not always be able to allow activities to occur in exactly the way that the group would like.

Due to health and safety considerations community groups need gain council agreement of their activities before undertaking pest and weed management on public land.

Having your say

Making submissions on council plans, policies and on resource consent applications is very important, as it allows you or your group to have a say in the future of your area. A good starting point of making a submission is to have a look at the proposed plan or consent to determine how it will affect you. These are usually available on the relevant council's website. It is important to keep your submission to the relevant issues and facts, state your point in a clear and logical way, explain how the plan affects you, focus on environmental effects, and support your submission with evidence. It is useful to provide examples of the rules affects. Include everything you want to talk about, and clearly state your concerns in your submission and how you want them addressed by council as you will not be able to introduce new issues at the hearing stage.

It is important to remember that there are a large number of community groups and that they will often be making the same or similar requests of a council. Submissions could be as individuals or it may be a good idea to make more in-depth submissions jointly with another group. This may also give your submission or request greater weight.